

**MAY 1, 2002**

**STATEMENT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SCHAKOWSKY ON SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The month of April, which was Sexual Assault Awareness Month, has come to an end. However, I propose that we make every month Sexual Assault Awareness Month until there is no longer a woman in this world who fears being raped or assaulted.**

**We are devoting extensive resources to ending terror around the world, while at the same time one in six women continue to be terrorized by sexual assault in their lifetime. Sadly, this is not new or shocking news, as each year the statistics change very little.**

**It is time to take a stand! It is time that we make ending violence against women a national priority! It is time that we devote the same amount of resources to ending a form of violence that terrorizes over half the population of this globe, as we provide to the "War on Terrorism."**

**I have introduced the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Victims' Housing Act and the Battered Immigrant Family Relief Act so that our laws can no longer be manipulated to the disadvantage of assault survivors. It's time to end violence against women and say that we, as the United States Congress, will do all we can to stop it.**